

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for monitoring operation of a thermal device, comprising the steps of: storing in sequence detection data on operating states at specified time intervals and detection time thereof as operating state data; storing detection data on operating states when a failure occurs in a thermal device (1) and failure occurrence time as point-of-failure data; storing operating state data for a specified period of time including the failure occurrence time; and outputting stored operating state data and point-of-failure data.

2. An apparatus for monitoring operation of a thermal device, comprising: detection means for detecting operating states of a thermal device (1); processing means (14), storage means (15); and output means, wherein the processing means (14) stores in sequence detection data and detection time thereof from the detection means in the storage means (15) as operating state data at specified time intervals, stores detection data on operating states when a failure occurs in the thermal device (1) and failure occurrence time in the storage means (15) as point-of-failure data, stores operating state data for a specified period of time including the failure occurrence time in the storage means (15), and outputs stored data in the storage means (15) to the output means.

3. An apparatus for monitoring operation of a thermal device as defined in Claim 2, further comprising a monitoring side device (20) for receiving the point-of-failure data and the operating state data of the thermal
5 device (1).